

FIVE MINUTES

Written by

Anthony D. Paul

FADE IN:

EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

The outside of a small, cozy bookstore. An old brick building. A literal hole in the wall.

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

DAVID, 30s, looking slick in his sport coat and Calvin Klein shoes, walks over to the ORGANIZER of the event TONY.

TONY

How you doing David?

DAVID

I'm good. Any new girls today?

TONY

Yep, all new ones signed up.

Tony hands David a paper with the attendees names on them, a pen, and his name tag. David doesn't put it on.

TONY (CONT'D)

You know the drill, we'll be starting in a few.

David makes his way in the bookstore. Guys and girls wait patiently. A few small tables are set up and ready.

The tables are marked in order by the letters of the alphabet. A, B, C...

Two guys play with their phones. One in a suit, the other frumpy looking in a T-shirt. Another guy looks at his watch. Two other guys talk with each other in the corner.

The women at this event are:

SARAH, a pretty girl in her twenties.

CELESTE, is a puppet. No seriously, she's a puppet and a damn fine looking one too.

MARGO is in her fifties and wears heavy make up and eye shadow, and a dress that would look good on her 20 years ago.

REBECCA, is a blond in her thirties, dressed in business attire.

JOSEPHINE is a black girl in her 40s. Professional. No nonsense.

And finally...

PRISCILLA, a know it all brunette in her thirties.

David checks out the women at the event.

Like the guys, Sarah texts on her phone. Josephine chats with Priscilla. Rebecca talks with a guy.

DAVID (V.O.)

Here I am at another speed dating event. Why do I bother? Maybe this time will be different David, come on. I really liked Jennifer last time. I thought we hit it off.

David sees a guy talking to Rebecca.

DAVID (V.O.)

I used to do that. Start talking to a girl before it starts. Good luck with that buddy. At least here you don't need a stupid pick up line. Speed dating. Where the socially awkward can talk to women.

INT. BOOKSTORE LATER

Everyone is lined up against the table seated and ready to begin.

David looks around at the other women.

TONY

Ladies, relax. You're not getting married tonight. You have five minutes to chat, then when you hear the bell, guys move to the next corresponding desk. You can start now.

DAVID (V.O.)

That five minutes either goes by real fast or it moves slower than a turtle.

David sits across from Rebecca. Rebecca plays with her cell phone. David patiently waits for her to finish.

DAVID (V.O.)

While she plays with her phone, I read it takes women thirty seconds to decide if they like you.

She finally finishes.

REBECCA

Sorry about that.

DAVID

No problem. How are you?

REBECCA

Good. So what do you do?

DAVID

I'm a system developer.

REBECCA

What's that?

DAVID (V.O.)

I'm loaded!

DAVID

Computers. And you?

REBECCA

I'm an attorney.

DAVID

Interesting. What type of law?

REBECCA

Civil.

DAVID

What do you like to do for fun?

REBECCA

Um, well. I like to travel.

DAVID

Really? Where have you been?

REBECCA

I've been to Jamaica and San Diego.

DAVID

That's awesome, I have family in San Diego.

FREEZE FRAME ON REBECCA

DAVID (V.O.)
See, there's different types of
women that go to speed dating.
There's the girl that's super
friendly to you but she's not
interested. That's Rebecca.

BACK TO SCENE

REBECCA
Nice. Small world. Where are
they?

DAVID
La Jolla.

DAVID (V.O.)
There's the girl that really
doesn't want to talk to you.

DAVID

Sits across from Josephine. Josephine looks like she wants
to scratch David's eyes out.

DAVID
So what's the last movie you saw?

JOSEPHINE
I haven't seen a movie in a real
long time.

DAVID (V.O.)
Do you live under a rock?

An awkward long beat. Josephine looks around, losing her
attention on David. David doesn't break eye contact.

DAVID
Have you done this before?

JOSEPHINE
No, this is my first time.

DAVID (V.O.)
And hopefully your last.

The bell rings.

David sits in front of Sarah.

DAVID (V.O.)
There's usually a girl that's too
young for you.

SARAH

So what kind of music do you like?

DAVID

Led Zeppelin, RUSH. You?

SARAH

I love Taylor Swift.

DAVID (V.O.)

Or you might run into the girl that repeats herself and talks too much.

Now Celeste sits across from David.

CELESTE

So like I said, I love to write. I've written a screenplay. I like to write about every day things. I've written some short stories. I read to my daughter, she's seven. And I love this bookstore, I've been coming here since I was a kid. I brought my daughter here, she loved it. Did I mention, I wrote a screenplay, I haven't shown it to anyone yet.

DAVID (V.O.)

There's always the girl that brings her friend.

AT THE TABLE

Rebecca waves at Priscilla who is at the other end of the room.

The bell rings.

Now David sits in front of Priscilla.

PRISCILLA

Where have you traveled?

DAVID

I've been to London. Paris.

PRISCILLA

Paris? Why would you go there? They hate us!

DAVID

They don't hate us. I actually had a good time.

PRISCILLA

They hate us.

DAVID (V.O.)

Oh yeah. And sometimes you'll meet
the close minded girl.

DAVID

Talks with Margo.

MARGO

How old are you?

DAVID

Do I look too young?

MARGO

No, I'm just asking.

DAVID

I'm 35.

DAVID (V.O.)

God forbid I ask her how old she
is.

MARGO

So what did you ask me?

DAVID

About where you grew up.

DAVID (V.O.)

What was it like growing up in the
fifties?

MARGO

Pardon?

DAVID

I said, speed dating is pretty
nifty. Isn't it.

MARGO

Yes, I like it. It's a great way
to meet people.

LATER

The guys and girls talk to each other. Tony rings the bell
but that doesn't stop everyone from chatting.

TONY

Ok, everyone listen up. Fill out your forms. Check the box, it's either yes or a no. There is no maybe and there is no friend option. Make sure you put an email where we can contact you.

Sarah and Rebecca work on their forms at the table. Celeste works feverishly on hers. Josephine gets up and works on her's in private in the corner. David fills his out in a book aisle.

Everyone FREEZES except for David.

DAVID

Look at all these options. Do I pick the girl with the attitude? I have nothing in common with the one that's younger than me. I'm sure Rebecca is checking my name as I speak.

Sarah unfreezes and glares at David.

SARAH

There's plenty of nice women to choose from.

DAVID

Really? One doesn't travel, another hasn't seen a movie in ten years, the other is old enough to be my mother.

SARAH

Well, why don't you write down what you want and maybe the universe will deliver it to you!

DAVID

Why are you butting in? I'm the main character!

SARAH

Really? I thought this was a ensemble piece?

DAVID

That's the problem. You assume!

SARAH

You men are all alike!

DAVID

What the hell is that suppose to mean!?

SARAH

When you guys come here, the first thing you do is pick who would look best horizontal on your bed!

DAVID

Oh yeah. Well the first thing you girls always ask is...

SARAH

So what do you do?

MARGO

So what do you do?

CELESTE

So what do you do?

PRISCILLA

So what do you do?

REBECCA

So what do you do?

JOSEPHINE

So what do you do?

SARAH

Ever hear of process of elimination? I need to make sure he's not a Walmart greeter who lives at home!

DAVID

Ever think that maybe he's in between jobs and needs to get back on his feet?

SARAH

That's not my problem.

DAVID

Of course it isn't.

SARAH

Hey, at least you're day dreaming.

DAVID

What?

INT. DAVID'S OFFICE - NIGHT

David sits at his desk, staring at the computer screen. On the screen is an email that reads:

URGENT:PLEASE REPLY TO THIS EMAIL TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE WITH A YES OR A NO IN THE SUBJECT LINE.

David clicks with the mouse and hits reply. He types NO in the subject line of the email and clicks send.

FADE OUT.